

66 North Lassen Street • Susanville, CA 96130-3904

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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)
Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of)
the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984)
as amended by the Cable Television Consumer)
Protection and Competition Act of 1992)

MB Docket No. 05-311

COMMENTS OF CITY OF SUSANVILLE

These Comments are filed by the City of Susanville in support of the comments filed by the National League of Cities and the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors ("NATOA"). Like NLC and NATOA, the City of Susanville believes that local governments can issue an appropriate local franchise for new entrants into the video services field on a timely basis, just as they have for established cable services providers. In support of this belief, we wish to inform the Commission about the facts of video franchising in our community.

Cable Franchising in the City of Susanville

Community Information:

The City of Susanville is a small, rural city with a population of 18,600. Our franchised cable provider is Time Warner Cable. Our community has negotiated cable franchises since the mid-1980s, first with CDA Communications, then Aldelphia Communications and now, Time Warner Cable.

Competitive Cable Systems:

Our community has never been approached by a competitive provider to provide service.

Conclusions:

The local cable franchising process functions well in the City of Susanville. Based on this history, we are experienced at working with cable providers to both see that the needs of the local community are met and to ensure that the practical business needs of cable providers are taken into account.

Local cable franchising ensures that local cable operators are allowed access to the rights-of-way in a fair and even-handed manner, that other users of the rights-of-way are not unduly inconvenienced and that users of the rights-of-way, including maintenance and upgrade of facilities, are undertaken in manner which is in accordance with local requirements. Local

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cable franchising also ensures that our local community's specific needs are met and that local customers are protected.

Local franchises thus provide a means for local government to appropriately oversee the operations of cable service providers in the public interest and to ensure compliance with applicable laws. There is no need to create a new Federal bureaucracy in Washington to handle matters of specifically local interest.

Finally, local franchises allow each community, including ours, to have a voice in how local cable systems will be implemented and what features (such as PEG access, institutional networks or local emergency alerts, etc.) will be available to meet local needs. These factors are equally present for new entrants as for existing users.

The City of Susanville therefore respectfully requests that the Commission do nothing to interfere with local government authority over franchising or to otherwise impair the operation of the local franchising process as set forth under existing Federal law with regard to either existing cable service providers or new entrants.

Respectfully submitted,
CITY OF SUSANVILLE


Rodney E. De Boer
Mayor

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